Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID) Partnership

Working with Diverse Women and Girls with Disabilities for Rights and Justice

The Engendering Disability-Inclusive Development (EDID) partnership (2020–27) is an international partnership pursuing rights and justice of and with diverse women and girls with disabilities in Haiti, South Africa, Vietnam, and Canada.

EDID aims to:

1. Uncover, co-create, and share knowledge about the challenges and progress of women and girls with disabilities.
2. Promote development policies that reduce barriers and foster inclusion and participation.

EDID partners use **collaborative, engaging, and interactive approaches with communities and individuals** to:

- Study gendered, disability and other experiences in four countries (Haiti, South Africa, Vietnam, and Canada) and internationally to contribute to education, research, and practice about inclusive global development.
- Build and enhance mutual and inclusive relationships between researchers, students, disabled persons' organizations (DPOs), development experts, and policy makers.
- Share knowledge among activists, researchers, and policy makers to better understand and address the challenges faced by diverse women and girls with disabilities.

Why Now?

With the 2015 adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, **world governments committed to "leave no one behind." Yet the roughly 1 billion people with disabilities globally, the majority of whom are women and girls, face unique barriers that lead to poverty and exclusion.** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and other international agreements provide guidance for what inclusion, access, and participation mean in practice. Using these, countries can **re-imagine and rebuild societies that prioritize inclusion and access, and value caring and supportive relationships**.

Gender and Disability Often Lead to Exclusion

Women and girls with disabilities continue to face persistent obstacles to education, health, and livelihoods, and exposure to stigma, exclusion, poverty, and violence. Regardless of where they live, lack of access to buildings and spaces, feeling invisible, challenges to participation in community life, and limited access to food and services prevent full inclusion for women and girls with disabilities. These **experiences and barriers can lead to exclusion, often justified by cultural responses to both disability and gender**. Governments can make this worse when they fail to follow through on their commitments to disability inclusion.

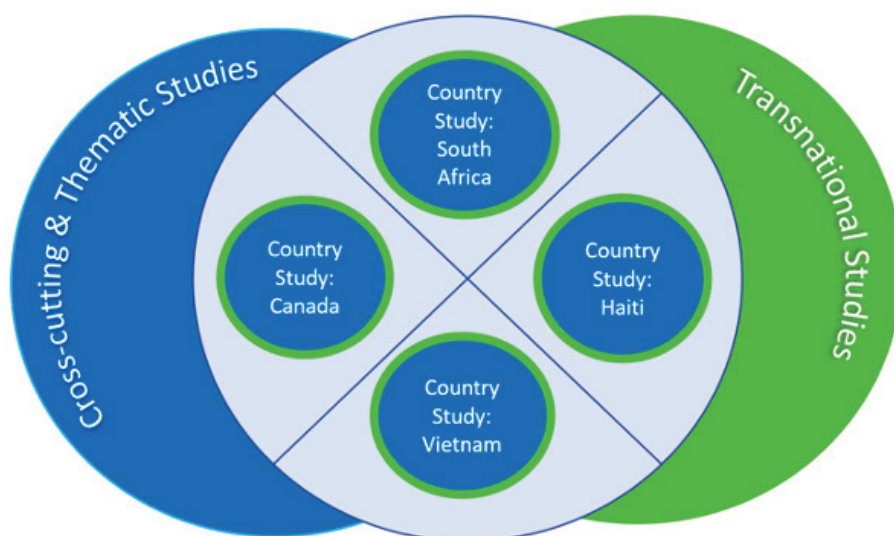## Women with Disabilities Make Change

EDID works with women with disabilities to identify priorities for research, action, and policy change. Most importantly, EDID builds space for women with disabilities to share their knowledge and work together for change.

Four Country Studies

The EDID partnership is undertaking four country studies in Haiti, South Africa, Vietnam, and Canada. All four countries have committed to important international human rights treaties including the CRPD. The diversity in country studies allows us to explore women's and girls' disability rights across geography, economy, and politics. Each country team includes local knowledge holders, including at least one disabled persons' organization and one country-based researcher. The country studies use community-based research approaches to decide what to study and how to conduct the research, ranging from analyzing census data or policies, to conducting arts-based research. Later in the project, we will analyze findings across countries.

EDID Partnership at a Glance

As shown in the image, the EDID project comprises three research streams that foster collaboration with international partner organizations. Partners for the Country Studies and for the Transnational and Cross-Cutting and Thematic Studies are listed at the bottom of this page.

Country Study Partners

Canada

- Canadian Council on Rehabilitation & Work
- DisAbled Women's Network of Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Indigenous Disability Canada/British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society
- Realize
- University of Guelph

Vietnam

- Carleton University
- Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi)

Haiti

- Bureau du Secrétaire d'État à l'intégration des personnes handicapées
- Réseau associatif national pour l'intégration des personnes handicapées
- Université d'État d'Haïti
- University of Ottawa

South Africa

- Dalhousie University
- South African Disability Alliance
- Epilepsy South Africa
- University of the Witwatersrand
- University of Winnipeg

Transnational & Cross-Cutting Study Partners

- Canadian National Institute for the Blind, World Blind Union
- Carleton University
- Dalhousie University
- DisAbled Women's Network of Canada
- Global Affairs Canada
- Humanity and Inclusion Canada
- National Union of Women with Disabilities Uganda
- The Critical Institute
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- University of Ottawa
- University of Guelph

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